

THE STATUS REPORT

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MCSW's Remarkable Interns in the Summer Spotlight!

The MCSW is fortunate to have SEVEN remarkable interns this summer. Each of them brings their talent, skills and enthusiasm to the MCSW to assist staff in accomplishing a long list of projects. We'd like to introduce you to each one and give a brief description of their background and what they are working on at the MCSW. Our interns are enthusiastic about advocating for women and girls, and helping one another. The diverse perspective of each intern continuously enriches staff. A short biography of each follows.

Jessie



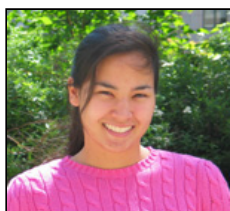
Jessica (Jessie) Anderson is a rising junior at Tufts University. She quickly fell in to step with the other members of the office and is currently knee deep in research. Over the course of her summer internship she will coordinate the efforts of the Massachusetts Women's Research Collaborative, and along with a fellow intern, conduct research on the status of women and girls in the Commonwealth's Counties. At the end of her internship she will be leaving the MCSW and the U.S. for advanced studies abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.

Daria Auerbach our most recent addition to the MCSW office is a rising senior at the University of Pennsylvania. She recently returned from Paris, France, where she spent her spring semester, to assist the Commission in its efforts to grow our Massachusetts Women's Resource and Referral Network. After graduation, she would like to pursue a career in international women's rights.



Daria

Alexis



Alexis Del Viscio, a spring intern with the Commission, has generously committed to stay through the summer. She recently graduated from Lesley University, where she majored in Global Studies and minored in Social Policy. During the summer months she will be help to publicize the Massachusetts Women's Resource and Referral Network, as well as coordinate efforts to conduct workshops at libraries and women's centers. In the fall she will begin graduate studies in the Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston.

Carolyn McMenemy, a rising senior at Boston University, will split her time between the MCSW and the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, supporting MassGAP, an initiative to increase the number of women whom the newly elected governor will either hire or appoint to his or her administration. She will also help the Commission to establish a comprehensive system for tracking state legislation that pertains to women and girls. Already a well seasoned mover and shaker for women's rights within her University Community, Carolyn plans on attending Law School to further prepare herself for a career in women's advocacy.



Carolyn



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Sally



Sally Pendergast, a rising junior at Connecticut College, has committed to assisting the Commission with a number of research projects this summer. Along with Jessie, she is deep in the U.S. census, mining data about women and girls in Massachusetts. In addition, she is conducting research to support the efforts of the MCSW Legislative Committee. At the end of the summer, as fate would have it, Sally will be traveling to Cape Town, South Africa, with the same program as Jessie! After graduation she plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health.

Rheanne Wirkkala is a student of Philosophy and Political Science at Boston University, where she is a rising junior. She has joined the MCSW this summer to assist with establishing a network of regional councils across the Commonwealth. She will also help to coordinate the development of a "Handbook for New Commissions," a project that the MCSW has committed to on behalf of all Massachusetts Commissions and the National Association of Women's Commissions. Rheanne plans on attending law school after graduation, and has indicated that she may run for office someday.



Rheanne

Tamara



Tamara Wyzanski is a rising sophomore at Bates College, where she plans to declare a major in Women and Gender Studies. She is active with a number of women's organizations and initiatives on her college campus, and has transferred that commitment and drive to her work at the MCSW. She has already begun extensive research on pay equity, and will assist the Commission in developing legislation that will move Massachusetts' women closer to equality.

"We've chosen the path to equality, don't let them turn us around."

—Geraldine Ferraro

(The first woman candidate to be nominated as Vice President of the United States)

MCSW's Library; Calling all Bookworms!

The MCSW is pleased to announce the expansion of its lending library, thanks to a very generous donation of books from The Womankind Educational and Resource Center.

The collection offers information on a wide variety of topics, including women's health and sexuality, families and relationships, elder care, child rearing, feminist theory, and LGBTQ issues. There is also an extensive collection of business and financial literature, as well as a fiction section complete with novels, poetry and personal memoirs.

For those interested in feminist theory, MCSW intern Tamara Wyzanski recommends *Sex and Power* by Susan Estrich. Intern Sally Pendergast, suggests the helpful practicality of books such as Dr. Bernadine Healey's *A New Prescription for Women's Health* or Vimala Schneider McClure's *Infant Massage: A Handbook For Loving Parents*. No matter what your literary preference is, the collection should contain something of interest to you. We hope you will come browse our updated collection.

The library is free, open to the public, and is located in the MCSW Office in the Hurley building. Office hours are Monday

through Friday 9-5 pm.

Due to building security, it is best if you contact the MCSW office in advance to let them know you will be coming to check out the books. Call 617-626-6520.



MCSW Lending Library

MassGAP: Moving Women Ahead in Massachusetts



The election of a new governor this November will breathe new life into Massachusetts's politics. For women in the Commonwealth, this is an opportunity for the new governor to appoint candidates who will work to achieve equality for women. More importantly, this is an opportunity for the new governor to appoint women themselves. This is where MassGAP comes in.

The MassGAP (Massachusetts Government Appointments Project) was founded in 2002 by the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) and the Alliance of Women's and Business Professional Organizations to improve the percentage of women who were appointed to high-level state government positions. In the summer before the 2002 election, the MWPC analyzed the gender composition of high-ranking women appointees in the state government. They found that women held only 30% of high-level positions. The founders of MassGAP sought to not only improve those numbers, but to also make it impossible for government officials to claim that the lack of women appointees was due to lack of available candidates.

In 2002 MassGAP had tremendous success in getting all of the gubernatorial candidates to agree to improve the proportion of women appointees if elected. The MassGAP founders presented Governor Romney with a book of résumés of eligible women candidates that had been researched and recommended by MassGAP. Governor Romney appointed several candidates from this list, increasing the gender parity in Massachusetts. The project was so successful that he was awarded the 2005 Exemplary Leadership Award by the National Women Republican's Club. Governor Romney credited his ability to appoint so many women to top leadership positions to the efforts of MassGAP.

For the 2006 election, MassGAP is gearing up to get even more qualified women appointed to top level positions in the state's government. The founders and many supporting organizations that make up MassGAP will be holding an inaugural meeting on July 18th to kick off the newest campaign to increase the female presence in the incoming governor's administration. This meeting (by invitation only) will introduce MassGAP to newcomers by providing an overview of the project and introduction of the women who will be leading this effort. For more information, visit the following Web site: <http://www.mwpc.org/program/MassGAP.htm>

Did You Know...

On June 8, 2006 the FDA approved GARDASIL, a vaccine that targets the virus (HPV) responsible for most cervical cancers and genital warts.

For more information visit:

<http://www.healthywomen.org/healthtopics/humanpapillomavirus>
or call your doctor!!



MCSW CALL TO ACTION!!

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
is preparing the imminent launch of the

MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN'S RESOURCE & REFERRAL NETWORK

The network is an interactive online database that will put
information, services, agencies, and organizations

that Massachusetts women and their families need at their fingertips!

We need your help in identifying local service providers and women's organizations
to include in the network.

Make sure your organization is represented.

Enter your organizations information directly at www.mass.gov/women/addmyorg.htm
or call us at 617-626-6520

Commission Corner

Commissioner Menino Receives MWPC's Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to MCSW Commissioner Angela Menino, First Lady of Boston, who was recently honored with the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus' *Dolores L. Mitchell Lifetime Achievement Award* at their Nineteenth Annual Tribute to Abigail Adams.

Mrs. Menino was selected for her outstanding commitment to the realization of equal political, economic, and social rights for women. This honor is given to pay tribute to Dolores Mitchell, one of MWPC's founders and tireless advocate for women.

The Caucus of Women Legislators appointed Mrs. Menino to the MCSW.



Pictured L - R: Congratulating Mrs. Menino after the ceremony was Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral, [Mrs. Menino], and State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry.

MCSW Commissioner Coney Speaks at Grandparents Forum



Grandparents raising grandchildren is a growing concern. According to The Bay State Banner, conservative estimates suggest 68,000 children are now being raised by their grandparents throughout the Commonwealth. And, nearly 12,000 of those are in Boston. MCSW Commissioner Gloria Coney is one of them.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, Coney made the painful decision to take over raising her granddaughter and cut all contact with her daughter. Coney said, "I just couldn't have her continuing to be a disruptive force...raising a grandchild is no simple matter." Coney had to give up her own business and almost lost her home in order to send her granddaughter to a private school.

Coney spoke of her personal situation at a forum held at the Carney Hospital in Dorchester. Roots to Wings, a non-profit support group for grandparent-headed households, sponsored the event. Also in attendance were State Representative John Lepper and Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, who suggested the City Council could hold a hearing and urge legislators to establish a commission on grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The MCSW staff has compiled a "**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Massachusetts Resource Guide.**" If you would like a copy, contact the MCSW office at (617) 626-6520.

"...RAISING A GRANDCHILD IS NO SIMPLE MATTER."

~Gloria Coney

Did you know July is UV Safety Month?? The American Academy of Ophthalmology and Eye doctors are urging everyone, including children of all ages, to protect their eyes from UV-related damage by wearing sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats. For more detailed information, go to www.aao.org.

When One Door Closes, Another Opens! An interview with Nancy Ryan, Retiring Executive Director of the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women.

Q. What's happening at the Cambridge Women's Commission that the rest of us should be watching?

A. The City Manager and the Cambridge Women's Commission are pleased to announce the appointment of Kimberly Sansoucy as the new Executive Director. Kimberly has been affiliated with the Education Development Center in Newton since 1997, working on a Gender Healthy Schools initiative in the Boston and Cambridge Public Schools, a national Hate Crime Prevention project and a career development program for homeless adults dealing with addictions. She is a founding member of Girls' LEAP (Lifetime Empowerment and Awareness Program) that provides a creative violence prevention curriculum for girls and adult women in their lives, often in collaboration with the Cambridge Police Department's Rape Aggression Defense program. She is a coalition-builder and a collaborator who sees the issues of education, housing, reproductive health and wellness, jobs, anti-discrimination and immigrant and community services as at the center of her current and past work. Kimberly is a resident of Cambridge and particularly active in women's safety issues.

Q. You have been at the CWC for 25 years, why did you get a job there?

A. I had lived in New York City until the late 70's when family illness called me back to my hometown, New Bedford, in 1977. I became the director of the New Bedford Women's Center, a community-based organization with a multicultural staff of 20 and programs in women's health, legal rights, domestic violence and rape. Although I loved my job, I also fell in love with someone who lived in Cambridge with his two sons and when this position came open in 1981 it seemed like the right moment for me to consolidate work and relationship. Fortunately, I got the job because the Commission was looking for someone with both administrative and collective experience -- at the time, the Women's Center staff operated as a collective.

Q. Were you ever tempted by other positions?

A. I made a commitment to myself that if I became bored or lackadaisical in my work that I would move on. Fortunately, that was not likely or possible in this position in this city. At each turn, I have been challenged to learn about new issues, collaborate with new colleagues, and find new ways to make change with and for women and girls. I've been able to work both within Cambridge as well as at the state, regional and national levels on projects. Whether it was getting signs installed throughout the city that declare that domestic violence is illegal or helping to create the statewide Up and Out of Poverty Campaign to challenge the state's inadequate welfare payments, I've been shoulder-to-shoulder with women who know how to make things happen and know how to laugh. While it's hard to believe it's been almost a quarter century, my work here has always felt new and challenging.

Q. What is the legacy you [hope] to leave for the CWC and the women of Cambridge?

A. The Women's Commission's legacy and reality are that we are a full partner in the life of the City, both within City Hall and in the neighborhoods. We've worked hard, staff and Commission, to be accountable to the women and families who are up against economic stress as well as the forces of racism, class segregation and immigrant discrimination. We've had a long effort to bring the full city government's attention to domestic and family violence in collaboration with the under funded community groups that have shouldered this for the past 30 years. The women's health programs of the Cambridge Health Alliance are among the best in the region thanks, in part, to our advocacy. We've fought for programs and recognition for girls and to get their voices heard at every level of civic life. And there will be a two-story atrium housing a unique public art tribute to women's contributions to the life of the City in the new public library that will open in 2008.

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Save the Date! Wednesday, December 6, 2006 The 2nd Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women

Don't miss the second annual MA Conference for Women, to be held at the Boston Exhibition and Convention Center. This one-day event will feature more than 75 diverse and nationally recognized speakers leading seminars on topics such as health, personal finance, education, and more. Conference attendees, expected to outnumber 4,000 this year, will enjoy even more networking, education and inspiration.

Online registration is now available at
www.maconferenceforwomen.org



Interview with Nancy Ryan, continued from Page 5

*Nancy Ryan***Q. Do you have a fond memory you would like to share?**

A. When I started this job in November 1981, there was a man named Jimmy who put up a hand-printed sign each Friday for my benefit when I delivered the time sheets to the payroll office that said, "Commission on the Status of Men." He thought I'd get all riled up. Instead, the women in the office started to chide him and soon we had a weekly gabfest going about the women's issues of the moment. Jimmy has passed away, but a number of us still recall those days and he helped us all find a new avenue for sharing women's issues in a light-hearted but meaningful way in the heart of City Hall.

Q. What's next for you?

A. I'm president of the board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. I decided that you can't do women's rights work without the protection of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, so I'm going to be focusing my energies on restoring the rule of law and strengthening the core liberties that make any social change in this country possible.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) congratulates Nancy on her retirement. More importantly, we thank her for her tireless efforts and tremendous service as an advocate for women. Nancy was one of the MCSW's "Founding Mothers." We wish her all the best and hope to work with her again in the future.

The Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women was established by the City Council as a department of city government in October 1977. For more information about the Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women visit their Web site: <http://www.ci.cambridge.ma.us/%7EWomen/>



Coalition of New England Commissions for Women Meeting Held

The Coalition met on Thursday, June 8, at the Schrafft Center in Charlestown, MA. Susana Segat, a Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and President of SEIU Local 888, provided the meeting space.

Meeting topics included sharing what each Commission is working on and the issues of the day.

Pictured at right, Standing L-R: Jackie Cooke, Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor; Wendy Love, Director of the VT Commission on Women; Marie Turley, Executive Director, Boston Women's Commission; Linda Brantley, Executive Director, MA Commission on the Status of Women; and Pat Nickerson, Boston Women's Commission.

Sitting L-R: Leslie Brett, Director, CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women; Pat Hendel, Past President of the National Association of Commissions for Women and current Commissioner of the CT Commission; and Nancy Ryan, Executive Director, Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women.



**"I think the key is for women not to set any limits."
— Martina Navratilova**

Upcoming Noteworthy Events & Happenings

⇒ July 18, 4:00 p.m. MassGAP 2006 Campaign Kick-off

By invitation only. For more information go to www.mwpc.org/program/MassGAP.htm

⇒ July 20, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Taste of Cambridge

Support the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) while enjoying this annual culinary tour of Cambridge. BARCC has been chosen as one of this year's beneficiaries.

Visit www.tasteofcambridge.com for more information.



Another Noteworthy Event:

August 7-9, 2006 → The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program Institute for Gender Violence Prevention and Education "Train the Trainers." MVP motivates men and women to work together to prevent men's violence against women.

Tuition is \$350 per person and participants are eligible to receive 21 PDP's from the MA Dept. of Education.

For more information, or to register, call

Liz Nichols @ 617-373-7797 or

E-mail: e.Nichols@neu.edu

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US AT:

WWW.MASS.GOV/WOMEN

If you have an event that you would like added to our future newsletters, or Web site, please e-mail the information to:

Paula.Daddona@state.ma.us

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